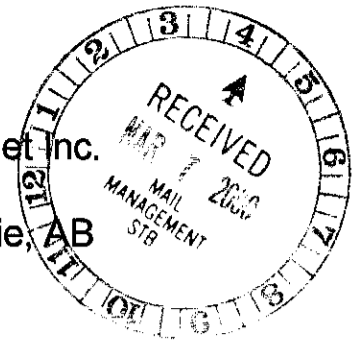


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Alberta RailNet Inc.
Box 21113
Grande Prairie, AB
T8V 6W7



Phone: (780) 513-7450
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February 25, 2000

Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Office of the Secretary
Case Control Unit
Attn: STB Ex Parte No. 582
1925 K. Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.
20423-0001

Dear Sir:

Alberta RailNet, Inc. is a shortline railroad company operating in Northern Alberta Canada that relies on connecting rail service and whose customers are major users of rail service both in Canada and the United States. The purpose of this letter is to comment on the issues to be discussed on March 8, 2000 in Ex Parte 582.

Our company provides our customers connecting rail service to Canadian National Railway for traffic both destined to and originating from Canada and the United States, the majority of whom have indicated to me their main concern with the CN/BNSF merger is one of service.

Those shipping to and from the United States have been affected by the rail service related to recent rail mergers and have a valid concern that rail service be the top priority in the March 8 discussion.

The issue of timing has not been raised as a concern therefore on behalf of our customers we respectfully request the Surface Transportation Board focus on service ensuring that the CN/BNSF combination or any other future merger will deliver service.

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Surface Transportation Board
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The public interest is already protected by means of a comprehensive process used by the Surface Transportation Board to evaluate railroad transactions.

As an operating shortline railway we feel strongly that the Surface Transportation Board should not be swayed by the timing issue placed before it. We respectfully request the Board, in the best interest of both our Company and our customers, take on the service issue as their top priority.

Sincerely

ALBERTA RAILNET, INC.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "G. J. Pichette", written in a cursive style.

G. J. Pichette
Vice President & General Manager

Faxed to: 202-973-7610